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(7 P.M.) only just now; the earth hardly ever seems firm, a constantly recurring tremor is very perceptible, and very disagreeable. Since my last I have been twice up the Mahadeo Peak to observe with the theodolite, and the instrument was several times thrown out of level, the tremor of the ground, even when not perceptible to the senses, was distinctly shown on the level scale.

"The river Berak flowed backward for an hour, and near Sylhet has been so lessened in depth that boats now navigate with difficulty; the earth opened in many places, swallowing up trees and houses, mud and hot water were thrown out of fissures, large areas have sunk, others been raised. Near Cachar a village has been left on a slope, where a long line of low hills has been formed.

"During the great shock elephants and horses all went over like ninepins, and I find that I and — were the only two persons in this camp who kept our feet, and we danced a 'balancez' in front of each other, calling out 'What is going to happen?'

"It will be most interesting to find out how the levels of the country have been altered. I feel certain that great changes have taken place in the peaks. I am getting together all the data I can, and expect to have a very interesting account to offer, relative to the area disturbed, and the directions of the waves. We seem to be here in a very unstable part of the earth."

8.—*An Account of the Land in the Vicinity of Cape Horsburgh, Lat. 74° 44' 24" N., Long. 79° W., and of the Island discovered there.* By ED. P. PHILPOTS, M.B., C.M.

(Communicated by ROBERT BROWN, F.R.G.S.)

OUR voyage was partly for whaling and partly for discovery. We sailed from Peterhead, March 31st, 1865, and were whaling in the vicinity of Resolution Island until June 1st. June 14th, we called in at Noursoak for native dogs. June 19th we visited the Duck Islands, lat. 73° 40', where we found a large number of eider ducks and lummes' eggs. Being unable to force a passage west, in this latitude, we ran south, and tried to cross in lat. 66°; failing to do so, we retreated north, and, finally, crossed to the west land of Baffin's Bay, July 30th, in lat. 75°. Having arrived in the "North Water," and not wishing to sail southward along the west coast, as is usual, we resolved to visit some of the inlets of Lancaster Sound, in pursuit of whales. August 10th, we anchored at Navy Board Inlet, here we saw a large whale, not far from the shore, going west at a quick rate, and near the beach the remains of a dépôt of government stores, which had been plundered by the natives; nothing remained but a few tons of coal, and a large number of cask-hoops built up to form a landmark. August 14th, we visited Prince Regent's Inlet, the west coast of which was ice-locked for several miles, and the large amount of ice prevented us from visiting Port Bowen as we intended. August 16th, we sailed north, till we arrived in Lancaster Sound, and then in a north-western direction, till we were off Caswell's Tower. Lancaster Sound west of this was so full of ice-floe, that in many places but a few yards of water intervened between it and the beach. August 14th we retreated east, in search of a suitable harbour near Cape Horsburgh.

We sailed as far north as Cape Parker, lat. 75° 10' N. and sent our boats north and south of it, to discover a harbour. Thirty miles north of it nothing is found but an unbroken coast; south is a deep bay (Hyde Bay), and a cluster of small islands, forming good harbours, but too shoal for anchorage. In a small bight in the land 7 miles W.S.W. of these islands, we thought it advisable

to anchor, the currents being too strong along the coast to remain at sea. This bight is much exposed, a reef of rocks lies off it (see chart), and a small glacier forms its eastern margin. Afterwards "Queen's Harbour" was discovered, in which we let go our anchor Sept. 1st, 1865, and here we remained eleven months and four days.

Sept. 2nd, James Mutch, third mate, and I travelled north, as far as what we then found to be the centre of an island, formed by the waters of Hyde Bay to the north, and Bethune or Banks's Bay to the south, and we marked the connection of these waters at the north-western point of the island.

"Queen's Harbour," although comparatively open and exposed, is the only spot in the island deserving the name of harbour. It is situated north by east from Hope's Monument, from which place, however, a straight course cannot be steered, as a point of a glacier intervenes. A rock, 6 feet below water-mark, and about 150 fathoms from the shore, is the only danger in this harbour. Upon the outlying point to the south is a cairn which we erected, and upon the beach below may be seen the graves of two of our crew.

Going from Cape Osborne in a northerly direction, we first come upon a low tract of land, dark in colour, and bearing traces of natives. Next, in front of some hillocks, is seen Hope's Monument, which is a conspicuous, dark-brown cone, with a broad base, and hardly covered with snow all the winter. Then the dark land suddenly ends and the glacier begins, probably the latter is slowly progressing over the former, but of this I have no proof. Proceeding northwards we come to the "Outer" point of the glacier, so called because its position was outside another point, when viewed from the ship, which we called the "Inner" point. The edge of the glacier generally ended abruptly in perpendicular ice-cliffs, from 20 to 70 feet above the water at their base. Between the "Outer" and "Inner" points enormous masses had fallen off, and continued to fall all the winter, shaking and cracking the floe, and making loud noises, and the size of the fragments could only be appreciated when the floe broke up in summer, and they floated away as large icebergs, with their upper—formerly their under—surfaces furrowed, at regular distances, with grooves 2 feet in depth and breadth. The ice-cliff generally was white, in some places it was light-blue, in others (from the clearness of the ice) it appeared quite black. Treacherous chasms made travelling over the glacier very dangerous. In one part of the ice-cliff, a most perfect echo was formed. As the glacier extended westward it rose in height, and became continuous, with some high mountains, perpetually covered with snow. About 8 miles from the "Inner" point, the ice-cliff and glacier end, and gradually become continuous with the low land, but the glacier extends westward as far as the eye can see. Immediately after the glacier ends, a series of small hills (some very verdant) commences, in the hollows of which are large pools of water, and it was hereabouts that some sledge-marks were seen. Proceeding along the coast, as we turn eastward, the land becomes low and swampy; but generally rises, as it recedes from the beach, until it forms a range of high, dark-coloured mountains, in some places covered with snow, which form large avalanches; these mountains run east and west, till the eye loses them. Still going eastward the coast lies low, but afterwards forms a series of small hills, which gradually increases till it forms the bluff cliffs of Cape Parker, and thence runs many miles northward.

I will now trace the coast of the island from "Queen's Harbour," going n.w. First we come to a long "wall" of loose shingle, forced up by the "ground ice," heavy pieces of which lie aground at low water, then the wall is changed into mossy hillocks, forming the banks of a rivulet which runs with great force into the main channel. This rivulet appears to have its source from two lakes, each between one and two miles square, which contain

salmon, and are probably connected with other lakes in the vicinity. Behind the north bank of the rivulet is the swampy land which forms the whole of north-west corner of the island, and which is covered with large pieces of heavy ice. The north shore of the island was never visited, as it was too swampy to traverse in the summer, and in the early spring we were too busy with the ice-saw to explore it. High rocky hills form the north-east corner of the island, which is bounded by a deep bay full of icebergs; from one of three high hills to the south of this bay, on the 18th of March, the captain and I sighted Smith's Sound, which, though not free of ice, was very open, and the floe had broken up about a mile from the shore; at the same time we also noticed the two small islands marked in my map, as lying below us to the southward. The skull of a musk ox was picked up south-west of these islands on the beach, which continues low till we reach the islands east of the light we first anchored in. The water around these islands is very shoal, and boils with a tremendous current, two of the islands stand away from the rest, and are breeding-places for eider-ducks and other birds. A range of high stony hills stretches from these islands to the south-west, standing behind a low swampy beach, on which may be seen a conspicuous volcanic hill, formed of large sharp and loose stones, which we named "Thomson's Monument." Between "Thomson's Monument" and the south point of the island are the remains of a large native settlement, and bones of foxes, dogs, deer, narwhal, white whales, and walrus, &c. &c., lie scattered on the beach in great profusion. Upon the south point of the island is the large cairn that we erected, surmounted by an icepole, which we named "Icepole Point." A comparatively deep bay intervenes between the south point of "Queen's Harbour" and "Icepole Point." The lowland that forms its beach is very swampy, and abounds with snipe in the summer.

The centre of the island is a swampy plain dotted over with many fresh-water lakes, varying in size from two square miles downwards. Upon this plain are scattered boulders of hard red stone, from four to twelve square feet in size. A series of valleys filled with snow lies amongst the high hills to the eastward of "Queen's Harbour." These valleys were frequently bridged over with frozen snow, which afforded a tolerably secure passage, though the snow from underneath the bridge at every footfall fell with a startling noise.

Banks's Bay is very deep, even up to the edge of the ice-cliff, for a great distance, but the water soon "shoals" as the channel runs north. Six or seven miles north-west of "Queen's Harbour" a "bar" runs across the channel, which is nearly dry at the lowest tides, also, at the same time farther up, a great deal of land appears above water. The icebergs which fill Hyde Bay, and which are grounded so far west, prove it to be a deeper channel than Banks's Channel. I have marked on my map a large rock to the south of "Thomson's Monument," but its position is unreliable, as I did not take its proper bearings.

From September 1st, during the winter, light winds blew almost steadily from N.N.E., but we had gales upon the dates and from the quarters I shall now mention:—October 29th, N.; November 6th, W. to W.S.W.; December 2nd, N.; 3rd, terrific circular storm, suddenly changing from N.N.E. to E. and to S.W.; January 26th, S.W.; February 6th, N.E.; 20th, S.W.; 26th, E.N.E.; March 30th, N. by E.; April 16th, N.N.E.; 23rd, S.W.; 25th, N.N.W.; May 29th, S. by E. to W. by N.; June 5th, N.E.; 12th, S.S.W.; 29th, N.N.E.; July 2nd, N.; 5th, S.E.; 8th, N.N.E.; 11th, N.N.E.

Until August 27th we were delayed in the "North Water" by a tight barrier of ice, which extended from Cape York to the River Clyde. We had once so despaired of ever reaching home that we chose what we then thought to be the least of two evils, namely, a second winter, in preference to drifting south in the pack. With this view we began again to sail up Lancaster

Sound, which we knew was clear of ice, to try to find any of the government stores that were left for Sir John Franklin; but we had not proceeded far before the crew mutinied, and we turned back and took the pack. Whilst sailing south, with every available sail set, and driving the ship and forcing her through the ice for life or death, we saw the steam-ship *Diana* of Hull, beset in the ice off the River Clyde, but could render her no assistance. She drifted in the pack to the south, and after a few months' delay arrived at home, crushed and leaky, her captain and many of her crew dead, and others dying. To Mr. Smith, her surgeon, whose acquaintance I made at this anxious time, and who is now medical officer to Mr. Lamont's expedition to Spitzbergen may be attributed the credit of her being brought home at all.

Our vessel, the *Queen*, arrived in Cumberland Gulf, and made a tour of it, she then anchored in Nieuatlik Harbour to prepare for sea, after which she made a quick passage home, having been absent nearly nineteen months.

During the voyage we satisfactorily determined—

I. That the land on which Cape Horsburgh is situated is an island.

II. That there is open water all the year round at the mouth of Lancaster Sound.

III. That there are no natives or deer on North Devon.

Our voyage also is of interest, on account of the high latitude we wintered in ($74^{\circ} 44' 24''$ N.), and because we are able to tell the state of the ice, as far 90° west longitude, in Lancaster Sound and in Prince Regent's Inlet, and so increase the number of journeys made to these rarely visited parts, and thereby assist the statistics. And lastly, we found for a fact that white whales and walrus are in $74^{\circ} 45'$ N. lat. as late as October 12th.

9. *Hydrographical Survey of Ladoga Lake.* Translated from the Russian of A. ANDREYEFF. By E. DELMAR MORGAN, F.R.G.S., late H.B.M. Acting Vice-Consul at Onega.

WE are accustomed to hear that the Ladoga Lake is stormy, full of rocks and dangerous shoals, and that its navigation is fraught with danger. But this widely spread opinion is not quite accurate. The chief obstacle to the navigation of the lake has been that hitherto no good description of it has been written, and no full and accurate chart drawn out. It was not until very recently that a hydrographical survey of the lake was made by a special commission whose labours are now concluded.

And yet the Ladoga Lake from time immemorial served as a means of communication between the Slaves of Ilmen on the one side, and the Variagas, and subsequently the German trading towns, on the other. Owing to this the Ladoga Lake is mentioned in Nestor's manuscripts under the name of Nevo. Upon the invitation of the Variago-Russ by the Slaves in the year 862, Rurik built his town of Aldeaborg (Ladoga) near the bank of the Volchoff, 12 versts from the lake. The lake itself is mentioned in the commercial treaty made in 1201 between the Gothlanders and the Novgorodians under the names Alda, Aldesk, Aldagen; and not until 1228, in the time of Kniaz George II. Vsevolodovitch, do we hear of it under the name of Ladoga.

During the development of trade between Novgorod and the Hanseatic towns, the Ladoga Lake formed part of the water communication by means of which this larger trade was carried on; and the whole water-way between Novgorod and the Gulf of Finland was known under the name of the "Novgorodian." The great importance attached to this channel for trade gave rise, as early as the commencement of the twelfth century, to contention between the Swedes and the Russians for its possession, but especially for that part of